

CGA Government Administration and Elections Committee
March 10, 2021 Public Hearing
Testimony Submitted by Yvonne Senturia, Election Law Specialist

Support for:

SB1017 AAC ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

HB5318 AA RESTORING ELECTORAL PRIVILEGES TO CONVICTED FELONS WHO ARE ON PAROLE

HB6578 AAC PARTICIPATION IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

The League of Women Voters of Connecticut is a nonpartisan, statewide organization that seeks to make it easier for eligible voters to register and maintain their voter registration, to promote active citizenship, and to build confidence in elections and government through effective public policy.

SB1017 AAC ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

The League believes that every citizen should be protected in the right to vote and therefore encourage efforts to maximize voter participation. Normally, voters return completed absentee ballots via mail or in-person at their town clerk's office during normal business hours. For the 2020 elections, voters also had the option to deposit their absentee ballots in secure drop boxes designated by their town clerk for that purpose. This allowed voters more flexibility out of office hours and the security of knowing exactly when their completed ballot was delivered. We continue to support capturing electronic signatures so that additional election-related forms --like absentee ballot applications--can be submitted online, similar to online voter registration.

The League supports SB1017 which makes permanent the use of absentee ballot drop boxes as well as other measures such as the development of a system through which election-related forms can be signed electronically which enhance election administration and make it easier for citizens to exercise their right to vote.

HB5318 AA RESTORING ELECTORAL PRIVILEGES TO CONVICTED FELONS WHO ARE ON PAROLE

The League of Women Voters is dedicated to maximizing voter participation. Withholding or delaying voting rights diminishes our democracy. *The League continues to support bills such as HB5138, which reduces disenfranchisement and increases civic engagement of those who have been released from prison by restoring their electoral privileges.*

HB6578 AAC PARTICIPATION IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

The League of Women Voters is dedicated to improving the electoral process and maximizing voter participation. The League continues to support providing an opt-out system for automatic voter registration for citizens interacting with motor vehicle departments and certain other state agencies which will improve access to voter registration. Withholding or delaying voting rights diminishes our democracy. The League continues to support restoring electoral privileges to convicted felons who are on parole, which reduces disenfranchisement and increases civic engagement of those who have been released from prison by restoring their electoral privileges. *The League supports HB6578, which makes it easier for citizens to participate in the electoral process.*

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment upon these bills.